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Proceedings of the Club.

The regular meeting was held Tuesday, April 8th, at Columbia College, the President in the chair and 23 persons present.

Mr. R. W. Gardner was elected an active member.

The death of Dr. Geo. Thurber, an ex-President of the Club, was announced.

Dr. Britton showed *Ranunculus hederaceus* collected by Rev. Arthur Wagborne in Newfoundland, this being a new station for the plant, hitherto known as North American only from Virginia.

Dr. Rusby spoke of the desirability of the Club directing some instructive work in Botany. The matter was referred to a committee of five. "The Characeæ," by T. F. Allen, M.D., the lecture announced for the evening, then followed.

The second April meeting was held on Wednesday evening, at Columbia College, the President in the chair and 32 persons present.

Mrs. Gen. Lewis Fitzgerald, Mr. Henry Kraemer and Mrs. J. L. Lewis were elected active members.

The Chairman of the Committee on Instruction reported favorably and recommended that a permanent Committee on Instruction be appointed; that the present season's course consist of ten afternoon Lectures given at the College of Pharmacy, alternating with ten Saturday excursions, the whole course to terminate about July 1st, and that the fee for each member of the class shall be five dollars. The President appointed on such committee, H. H. Rusby, J. S. Newberry, Emily L. Gregory, Wm. E. Wheelock, Elizabeth G. Britton, Henry Kraemer and Arthur Hollick.

The Committee on Botanic Garden reported progress and on motion was enlarged to eleven members.

Prof. Porter delivered the lecture of the evening, entitled "A Memoir of Linnæus."

REPORT OF FIELD COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR 1889.

In presenting this report I am obliged to announce the great difficulties which your committee has experienced on account of the excessively stormy season. Many of our meetings have been

entirely prevented, or the attendance reduced to its lowest terms. Some of our most successful meetings have been held in the face of the storm.

The first field meeting of the season was at South Amboy, New Jersey. But few plants were collected, the important ones being *Epigæa repens* and *Pyxidantha*.

The next meeting of April 27th to Richmond Hill, Long Island, was entirely prevented by the storm.

On May 4th the Club met at Van Courtlandt, New York, upon which occasion 40 species were collected, the most interesting being *Ranunculus fascicularis*, *Silene Pennsylvanica*, *Trillium cernuum*, *Diclytra Cucullaria*.

Upon the 11th of May we met at Bronx Park, New York, Miss E. Cannon appointed as guide. This meeting was of special interest, as it enabled the members to survey the site which has been deemed most appropriate for the New York Botanical Garden. Miss Timmerman reports 65 plants as collected this day, the most interesting being a *Ranunculus* doubtfully referred to *R. Pennsylvanicus*, *R. septentrionalis*, *Corydalis sempervirens*, *Viola pedata*, *Staphylea trifolia*, *Myrica cerifera*.

On May 18th, under the guidance of Miss L. M. Stabler, we visited Pelham Manor, New York, and collected 47 species, among them *Arabis lyrata*, *Saxifraga Pennsylvanica*, *Rhododendron viscosum*, *Aphyllon uniflorum* and *Trientalis Americana*.

On May 25th Mrs. Britton conducted the party to Prince's Bay, Staten Island, the meeting being one of unusual interest, 49 plants being recorded. Among those more especially worthy of mention were *Viola primulæfolia*, *Oxalis violacea*, *Leucothoe racemosa*, *Melampyrum lineare*, *Veronica Chamædrys*, *Ornithogalum umbellatum* and *Isoetes Engelmanni*.

On May 30th, Decoration Day, your speaker was appointed to conduct the Club to Montclair Heights, a most interesting locality. The morning proved stormy, and on arriving at the railway station I found but a single member, Mr. Martens, prepared to accompany me. We attended the locality and my friend was rewarded by finding a single specimen of the rare *Obolaria Virginica* and two or three pretty specimens of *Liparis*.

The next meeting of June 1st, to Soho, New Jersey, was entirely prevented by the storm.

Upon June 7th, 8th and 9th the most important meeting of the season was held at Naomi Pines, a small settlement some four miles distant from Pocono Summit, Pennsylvania. This excursion might well be made the subject of a special paper, not only because of the pleasure afforded to the visitors, but because of the importance of the discoveries made. The Philadelphia Academy of Sciences had been invited to join us, and had sent quite a large delegation. Visitors were also present from Easton, Pennsylvania, and other points. The meeting was conducted by Prof. Thomas C. Porter, who was well acquainted with the locality. Great energy was exhibited by the explorers, and the entire three days comprised a continuous round of the most happy experiences, both scientific and social. I do not remember to have heard a single member of the party express the opinion that they had ever enjoyed a similar event more. 141 species are recorded as having been collected. Perhaps no other collection exceeded in interest that of the *Caltha flabellifolia*. This species, originally collected by Pursh, has been omitted from our manuals on the ground of doubts as to its genuineness. Prof. Porter's rediscovery of it at this point leaves no doubt as to the fact. It grows in spring water, has very small flowers and is markedly different from any other United States form. *Coptis trifolia* was abundant in fruit, and presented a fine appearance. In a field was found a large patch of *Aquilegia vulgaris* which had escaped from cultivation and had reached a perfection of beauty which none of us had ever seen presented by the cultivated plant. Those members who were not accustomed to a northern or white pine flora, were greatly interested in seeing *Viola rotundifolia*, *Oxalis Acetosella*, *Nemopanthes mucronata*, *Rubus Dalibarda*, *R. strigosus*, *Pyrus Americana*, *Ribes prostratum*, *Aralia hispida*, *Viburnum lantanooides*, *Lonicera cærulea*, *Diervilla trifida*, *Chiogenes hispidula*, *Ledum latifolium*, *Polygonum cilinode*, *Myrica Gale*, *Trillium erythrocarpum*. Especially noticeable for their beauty were the *Cornus Canadensis*, which grew in great snowy white beds in open places among the pines, both the *Kalmia angustifolia* and *K. latifolia*, *Cypripedium acaule*, *Clintonia borealis*, though this was a little past its prime, and the *Sisyrinchium angustifolium*. The latter made the meadows blue, and elicited expressions of admiration from every one. Its flowers exceeded in size any-

thing that we had ever seen, and rivalled those of the beautiful *S. Arizonicum*. A white-flowered form was several times collected. But most gorgeous of all the plants found was the brilliant *Rhododendron canescens*. The woods, both deep and open, were ablaze with it in every direction, and the air laden with its delicious fragrance. This plant has the color of the *R. nudiflorum*, but much richer and deeper. It is unquestionably distinct, and was of special interest, as its genuineness as a species has long been seriously questioned. *R. Canadense*, and *R. maximum* were also found. Three species of *Ilex*, namely: *laevigata*, *monticolor* and *dubia*, *Prunus Pennsylvanica*, *Drosera rotundifolia*, *Callitriche heterophylla* and *C. verna*, *Oxycoccus macrocarpus* and *O. palustris* were also collected with interest. Among orchids we were pleased to find *Corallorhiza multiflora* and *Goodyera repens*, the latter in bud. Eleven species of *Carex* were noticed among them the *folliculata*, *trisperma*, *echinata*, and *varia*. Among grasses we were pleased to obtain the *Oryzopsis juncea* and *Aira flexuosa*. Five species of *Lycopodium*, namely: the *annotinum*, *clavatum*, *complanatum*, *lucidulum* and *obscurum*, were collected.

Lastly, and perhaps ranking third in order of importance among all our collections, was the discovery by Mrs. Britton of the most rare *Botrychium simplex*. Other interesting ferns were collected, but my list is already too long.

After the return of the rest of the party, Dr. and Mrs. Britton, Miss Timmerman and Dr. Schoeney remained at the Delaware Water Gap for a day or two and were rewarded by some most interesting discoveries. They added 33 to the number of species collected. Among the more interesting of them were *Prunus pumila*, *Rosa humilis*, *Rubus odoratus*, *Comandra umbellata*, both species of *Woodsia*, *Rosa rubiginosa*, *Rhus typhina*, *Veronica Anagallis* and, exceeding all others in importance, the rare fern, *Asplenium montanum*. In concluding my report upon this most important meeting, I can only express the hope that when a similar excursion is arranged during the coming year it will be much more highly appreciated, and largely attended by those members absent on this occasion.

On June 15th a meeting was held in the neighborhood of Grassmere, Staten Island, at which 63 species were collected,

among them *Oxalis violacea*, *Trifolium hybridum*, *Lonicera sempervirens*, *Galinsoga parviflora*, *Calopogon tuberosus*, with the *Pogonia* which almost always accompanies it, *Aletris farinosa*, *Lilium erectum*, *Tilia Americana* and *Peltandra Virginica*.

On June 22nd a very interesting meeting was held at Crugers, New York, and 56 species collected. Of especial interest was the *Silene inflata*, *Erigeron ramosus*, *Lobelia spicata*, and *Cimicifuga racemosa*.

At Fort Lee on the 29th of June, 90 species were collected. Of special note were *Hesperis matronalis*, *Rhus typhina*, *Trifolium hybridum*, *Sedum acre*, *Convolvulus arvensis*, *Carpinus Caroliniana*, *Lilium Canadense*, *Ruppia maritima*, *Conium maculatum*, *Hieracium venosum* and *Galinsoga parviflora*.

It having been decided by the Club inadvisable to hold meetings during the warm weather, no card was issued until September.

On the 7th of September, by the kind invitation of Mr. E. S. Miller, we were to hold a meeting at Floral Park, Long Island. But the day was so very stormy that but a single member presented himself at the railway station, and he returned. So far as I am informed the meeting of September 14th at Erastina, Staten Island, was postponed for the same reason.

On the 21st of September your speaker was to conduct a meeting at Snake Hill, New Jersey. Business unavoidably detained him, and he has received no report beyond the fact that a good time was enjoyed.

On Sept. 28th Dr. Britton conducted a meeting at Crugers and Verplanck's Point, when 45 species were collected. Most interesting finds were *Solidago squarrosa*, *Asters undulatus*, *patens*, *multiflorus*, *Novi-Belgii*, *diffusus*, *Silene inflata*, *Echium vulgare*, *Helianthus giganteus*, *Lonicera parviflora*, *Gentiana Andrewsii*, *Bouteloua racemosa*, *Phaseolus helvolus*, *Calamintha Clinopodium*, *Viburnum pubescens* and *Arenaria Michauxii*.

Excursions were arranged for Oct. 5th to Van Courtlandt, New York, and on Oct. 12th to Little Ferry, New Jersey. Of neither of these meetings have I received any report. Neither have I received a report on meeting of Nov. 5th at Grassmere, Staten Island.

H. H. RUSBY,
NOVEMBER 26, 1889. *Chairman Field Committee.*